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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,637	07/01/2005	Hideaki Matsuoka	122662	5864
25944 7590 03/03/2009 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
MA, JAMESON Q				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1797				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/03/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/523,637

Applicant(s)

MATSUOKA ET AL.

Examiner

JAMESON Q. MA

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20050204, 20051018, 20070627

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation in lines 10-11 that reads 'the single-cell stimulating device and the sample injection means;' appears to be an incomplete statement. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otomo et al. (EP 1 182 250) in view of Bertholdt (US 5,114,854) and Prather et al. (US 4,994,384).

It is noted that applicant has used means plus function language in the following claims 1-6.

Regarding claim 1, Otomo discloses a single-cell operation supporting robot used to inject amphibian oocytes with liquid comprising a means for transportation of a sample injection device (fig. 1 and [0016-0017]; the injection needle is moveable). Also disclosed is a microwell (9), a light source (11) which is viewed as a 'single cell stimulating device, 'a single cell measuring device (digital camera 10 or CCD camera 7) and at least one computer (control unit 1) which automatically controls actuation of the sample injection transportation means. The CCD camera is connected to a monitor and indication is given from auxiliary control unit (2) and the injection needle moving table is operated to move slowly.

Otomo fails to disclose a microscope and a manual operation means which inputs signals to the computer based on an operation by an operator. Bertholdt teaches a system for the microinjection of liquids or suspensions into living cells. Bertholdt teaches a moveable cannula (12) for injecting liquid and a microscope (fig. 1) which aligns with the cannula to allow for exact observation of the cannula. The microscope is

exactly focused on the tip of the cannula and the cells can be seen in the field of view of the microscope (C1/L44-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to substitute for the ccd camera and monitor set up in the device of Otomo, a microscope as taught by Bertholdt, because doing so would have resulted in nothing more than the simple substitution of known methods for positioning an injection device relative to a living cell with a reasonable expectation of success. Bertholdt further teaches a manual operation means (control device 37) capable of inputting signals to the computer (control unit).

Modified Otomo fails to disclose a cell transportation means which transports a cell holding means for holding a single-cell relatively to and from each well of the microwell for storing cells.

Prather teaches a cell holding pipette that is used in conjunction with a transfer pipette in the micromanipulation of bovine cells (C4/L20-35). The cell holding pipette holds an oocyte in place by mild suction while the transfer pipette is inserted into the oocyte (C4/L36-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate into the device of modified Otomo, a cell holding pipette as taught by Prather in order to allow for easier transfer of fluid into the individual cells/oocytes.

Regarding claim 2, Otomo discloses that the microwell is a multimicrowell.

Regarding claims 3 and 5, Bertholdt teaches that an automatic stage is provided on the stage of the microscope.

Regarding claim 4, Otomo discloses that the sample injection transportation means has a manipulator which transports the sample injection means relatively to and from the stage ([0016]).

Regarding claim 6, while modified Otomo fails to disclose the cell holding pipette having a manipulator, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to install the cell holding pipette of Prather into the system of modified Otomo with a manipulator substantially similar to the manipulator used to move the sample injection device, because doing so would have allowed the cell holding pipette to be controlled by the operator via the control unit/computer/manual operation means.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMESON Q. MA whose telephone number is (571)270-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JM
February 26, 2009

/Arlen Soderquist/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797